

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 DHA-02 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

----- 083536

R 181200Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: NO RESOLUTION YET TO CRC CRISES

REF: CAPE TOWN 0925

1. DURING THE MONTH SINCE HE WAS DISMISSED FROM THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE COLOURED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC), SONNY LEON HAS MOVED AROUND THE COUNTRY APPEALING TO THE COLORED "GRASS ROOTS" FOR BACKING FOR HIS POLICY OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OVER ITS HANDLING OF COLORED AFFAIRS. THESE MASS MEETINGS, ORGANIZED BY LEON'S LABOR PARTY, HAVE DRAWN LARGE CROWDS WHO HAVE GIVEN HIM OVERWHELMING SUPPORT AND HAVE CRITICIZED MRS. JANSEN, HIS REPLACEMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE.

2. PROBABLY AS SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN A WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY FOR LEON'S POSITION EVIDENT WITHIN COLORED PROFESSIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES WHO USUALLY STAND ALOOF FROM COLORED POLITICS. ONE PROMINENT COLORED TEACHER, REFLECTING A SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL OF HIS ASSOCIATES OVER THE PAST MONTH, TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT BY REFUSING TO APPROVE THE CRC BUDGET

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LEON HAS SUCCESSFULLY DRAMATIZED THE INADEQUACY OF GOVERNMENT

SALARIES AND PENSIONS PAID TO COLOREDS AND OF ALLOCATIONS FOR COLORED ADMINISTRATION. MOREOVER, BY DISMISSING HIM AND REPLACING HIM WITH A "RUBBER STAMP" THE GOVERNMENT HAD UNMISTAKABLY DEMONSTRATED HOW FRAUDULENT IS ITS POLICY OF "PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT" FOR COLOREDS.

3. MEANWHILE, MRS. JANSEN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH A FRONT FOR WHITE CONTROL OVER COLORED AFFAIRS. IN THE INTERVIEWS THAT SHE HAS GRANTED THE PRESS SINCE HER APPOINTMENT, SHE HAS DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICS. HER TYPICAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HER GOALS FOR HER COMMUNITY IS THAT SHE LEAVES SUCH CONSIDERATIONS IN THE HANDS OF GOD WHO GUIDES HER DAILY.

4. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CRC BUDGET CRISIS HAS EXPOSED THE TRANSPARENCY OF ITS COLORED POLICY AND HAS MADE AN INSTANT MARTYR OUT OF LEON, THERE IS LITTLE TO INDICATE HOW LEON WILL PARLAY HIS MARTYRDOM INTO SOMETHING MORE PERMANENT OR HOW THE CURRENT SITUATION WILL BE RESOLVED. FOR THE REASONS REPORTED IN CAPE TOWN'S A-120 IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE FEDERAL PARTY, THE ONLY PRESENT POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE LABOR PARTY, CAN PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF THE LABOR PARTY'S MASS MEETINGS THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AS A MEANS OF PROTESTING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAS EMERGED. LEON HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WILL ASK HIS PARTY, DURING ITS ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 3, TO APPEAL TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS TO STAY AWAY FROM WORK ON A SET DAY "TO PRAY FOR A SICK SOCIETY". IF CARRIED OUT, THIS DEVICE COULD DEMONSTRATE FURTHER THE EXTENT OF LEON'S SUPPORT AND THE EXTENT OF OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OVER ITS RACE POLICIES, AT LEAST AMONG CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE POPULATION.

6. LEON INSISTS THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT A COLORED ONE BUT A WHITE ONE AND THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR A RESOLUTION MUST COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WHAT IT INTENDS TO DO BESIDES AWAITING THE THERON COMMISSION REPORT. IF THE REPORT CONTAINS SOME IMAGINATIVE AND LIBERAL RECOMMENDATIONS (WHICH IS EXPECTED) AND IF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO ACT ON THEM (WHICH AT THIS POINT IS UNCERTAIN) SOME ATTENUATION OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE MAY RESULT. HOWEVER, PEOPLE WITHIN AND CLOSE TO THE THERON COMMISSION HAVE TOLD ME THAT THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE LARGELY IF NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FIELD AND A SENATOR WHO HAS BEEN ADVISING A COMMISSION MEMBER BELIEVES THAT THE COMMISSION WILL ENDEAVOR TO SIDESTEP THE CRC ISSUE ENTIRELY. IF SO, SOME OTHER MEANS WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND TO RESOLVE THE

COLORED CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS.
GAMON

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